

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves FREE OF CHARGE, and IS OBLIGATED BY LAW to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

A clear example is not airing Nightline with the names of the dead in Iraq. When we send our troops in harm's way we are responsible, as citizens, to acknowledge each and everyone of those fallen heroes. It's shameful that Sinclair does not want to acknowledge our brave soldiers who are fighting in this conflict in Iraq. Rather, Sinclair wants to whitewash the courage and valor of these men and women, by qualifying it as unpatriotic.

As long as the airwaves are free of charge Sinclair MUST adhere to law and air both sides of an issue. They cannot make the judgment call for the American citizen, unless Sinclair despises the very concept of democracy that allows for diverse opinions to co-exist--and media outlets are obligated to make available to the viewer.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.